

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 1-4 and 7-9 are in the application. Claims 6 and 10-22 have been canceled.

The Examiner made the restriction requirement Final. Applicants have canceled the withdrawn claims, and has filed divisional applications directed to the withdrawn claims.

The Examiner noted that several references were missing from the IDS filed on February 4, 2005. Applicants submit herewith a Supplemental IDS containing copies of the missing references.

The Examiner objected to the specification for lacking proper headings. Applicants have amended the specification to include the relevant headings. The Examiner objected to the Abstract. Applicants submit herewith a new Abstract on a separate page.

The Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. §112 for indefiniteness. Applicants have amended claims 1-4 to further clarify the invention. It is now believed that the application is in compliance with 35 USC §112.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 7 under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Goodwin. Claims 1-4 and 6-9 are rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Okita. Applicants respectfully traverse. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the elements of claim 6, now canceled. Claim 1 now claims that the strips are exclusively positively connected by rabbeting, gluing, stamping or welding.

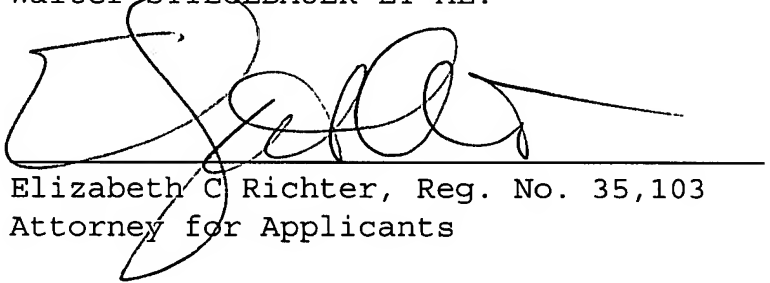
Goodwin describes a bimetal pad which can be interposed between the electrode and the work piece to be welded to prevent fusion of the welding electrode to the work piece. The bimetal pad has a relatively high resistance heat producing layer of metal adjacent the member to be welded, and a relatively low resistance layer of metal adjacent the electrode. In contrast to the bimetal pad according to Goodwin, the present invention describes a strip comprised of at least two superimposed metal strips made of different materials.

Okita et al. describes a resistance welding process for aluminum and aluminum alloy materials where an insert material can be used between the electrode and the work piece. The object of the present invention is to provide a device for the protection of an electrode by which the wear of the electrode is strongly reduced.

This object is solved in that the strip is comprised of at least two superimposed metal strips made of different materials. By selecting a suitable material combination, optimum protection will be obtained for the respective welding, thus strongly reducing the wear of the electrode. In order to enable a simple combination of the protection strip comprised of at least two superimposed metal strips, and also ensure placeability of the metal strips relative to each other, the metal strips of the electrode protection strip are exclusively positively connected with each other without forming an integral joint. Such a device is neither disclosed in the Goodwin nor in the Okita reference.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-5 and 7-9 are patentable over the cited references, taken either singly or in combination. Early allowance of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Walter STIEGLBAUER ET AL.

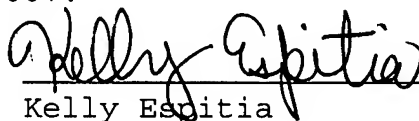


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Enclosure: Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement
PTO Form 1449 with six (6) references
ECR:cmm

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA, on April 5, 2007.


Kelly Espitia